

*Testimony of Jack Malone
President and Executive Director
Southeastern Council on Alcoholism
And Drug Dependence, Inc.
(S.C.A.D.D.)
March 6, 2015*

**Senator Bye Representative Walker, Members of the
Appropriations Committee**

**I'm Jack Malone, President and Executive Director of the
Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence,
Inc, a community based non-profit based substance abuse
treatment program operating in New London County.**

We employ 144 people.

**This year we will treat 3800 individuals in one of our four
levels of care.**

**It will be at the initial detox level—for those who want to break
the grasp of addiction**

**In long term residential level—or for those who need to be in a
safe & sober environment and learn to live sober.**

**In a Halfway House, integrating back into the community as a
sober and productive member of our society.**

**In an Outpatient setting where they can stay working and with
their families while confronting the problems in their life
brought on by their disease of addiction.**

**I understand all too well the problems this committee is faced
with this year. I served on this Committee a number of years
ago so I feel your pain.**

I feel that I must be here to speak vociferously about my concern that the system of care the state has relied on for substance abuse treatment, mental wellness treatment, developmental disability care and more is perilously close to falling apart.

And it is being done in the most insidious fashion. I think of the cliché “death by a thousand cuts.” but that’s not appropriate because the Imperial Chinese used that method on criminals who they believed deserved that unspeakable demise.

In Connecticut, those of us engaged in community based non-profit treatment programs are partners with the state established to provide high quality and affordable services for the neediest in the state. We have done a remarkable job.

We have done such a remarkable job that state leaders have bragged to their colleagues across the nation of the the fine system of care “they” built here.

We have done such a remarkable job that the state of Connecticut closed the hospitals that it ran in Newtown, Preston and Mansfield and said the community based system of care is so good and so affordable that we no longer needed those expensive institutions.

We took on that challenge because Connecticut has so many needs. The social needs continue to explode. We all endeavor to make Connecticut a better place but we need to be supported in our efforts.

The seminal educational event for me in my time in public service was not a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was an impassioned lecture from our great friend Annette Carter in the caucus room. In her best style, part grandmother, part preacher, she railed on about Connecticut being the “richest state in the nation with three of the poorest cities in the nation” and our responsibility inherent in that reality.

The reality of our community needs continue to be great and our responsibility to that effort is firm. We have taken the “thousand cuts” and there are more on the horizon. That signals a departure from a position where many of us thought maybe we could survive to a place of peril where we question our survival.

I live that reality every day.

My agency cares for the sickest and neediest people in New London County—their lives driven down by an insidious disease to abject poverty, exposed to devastating and deadly illnesses, forced to commit unspeakable and criminal acts—all as a result of the greatest social ill in our communities—pure, powerful and cheap South American heroin.

We are dedicated to fighting that fight everyday

We are keeping our end of the bargain. The state really has to keep up its end. I know you have a full agenda and you will be exhausted by hearing the pleas over and over again today.

Please remember the importance of these programs in the lives of your constituents and try to imagine what Connecticut would be without this system of care on which so many rely.

Thank you for your time and attention to my testimony and thank you most for the work that you do in deliberating these serious matters.